

# Subsistence Fishing Notice 4

## Complete Gillnet Closure Downstream of Tuluksak

These restrictions apply to all of the Kuskokwim River and its Salmon tributaries within the boundary of Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge. Only Federally qualified subsistence users can fish on Federal public waters of the Kuskokwim River. Fishing for Chinook Salmon is closed for all users, except with Federal Community Harvest Permits. Federal Community Harvest Permits remains open until June 30 or until communities reach their quota. All gillnets are prohibited on the Kuskokwim river downstream of Tuluksak, and are also prohibited in the Eek, Kwethluk, Kasigluk, Kisaralik, Tuluksak and Aniak rivers and their salmon tributaries.

Federal public waters in the drainage remain open to fishing with other legal gear, except for Chinook Salmon. ADF&G is managing State waters in Kuskokwim Bay below the Refuge boundary and the Kuskokwim drainage above the Refuge boundary at Aniak.

Fishing with gillnets:

- Kuskokwim River downstream of Tuluksak and all salmon tributaries – **CLOSED**-(See Figure 2015-7, shaded in yellow)
- Kuskokwim River upstream of Tuluksak to Refuge boundary at Aniak –6 a.m. Thursday June 18 until 6 a.m. Sunday June 21, 2015 (See Figure 2015, shaded in red)
  - Legal gillnets upstream of Tuluksak must be 4-inch mesh or less, no more than 60 feet long and no more than 45 meshes in depth. Drifting gillnets is prohibited. All gillnets must be removed from the water by 6:01 a.m. Sunday. All fish caught with approved nets during these openings are legal. These gillnet restrictions also apply to the first 100 yards from the mouth of non-salmon tributaries.
  - There are no gillnet restrictions more than 100 yards upstream from the mouth of non-Salmon tributaries and these waters are not included in this closure.

Subsistence fishing for everything except Chinook Salmon is allowed by Federally qualified fishers using other legal subsistence gear including dip net, beach seine, fish wheel, or rod and reel. All Chinook Salmon incidentally caught must be immediately released.

**Both the Bethel Test Fishery and the tagging project near the Johnson River suggest that a higher abundance of Chinook Salmon may be entering the river. Additional subsistence fishing opportunities will re-open once chum and sockeye numbers improve at assessment locations.**

Users are required to mark net buoys with their first initial, last name, and address. A dedicated message with current federal regulations can be reached at 907-543-1037. Contact U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for additional information on federal fishing regulations.

